Tele-Serials on Dr. Ambedkar

2114. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governing Body of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation on the eve of the Golden Jublee Year of India's Independence i.e. 1997 decided to bring out teleserials on the life and mission of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and telecast the same on the national network of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, what action has been taken for implementing the decision; and

(c) what is the present status of production of the said tele-serials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Action was initiated to implement this decision and accordingly the Doordarshan was requested to take up this task of preparing the tele-serial. Subsequently however, it was suggested that instead of pursuing on the preparation of the tele-serial on Dr. Ambedkar, Doordarshan may consider to telecast the T.V. Doeumentary on Dr. Ambedkar which was earlier prepared in the year 1991. However, in response to this proposal, Doordarshan conveyed that it would not be possible to re-telecast the above mentioned T.V. Documentary since this was in long-band and outdated.

The above fact will be placed before the Governing Body of the Foundation for its further consideration and directions.

Allocation for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers

2115. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 90 crores has been allocated in the budget estimates of her Ministry during 1998-99 for supporting the programmes meant for liberation and rehabilitiation of Scavengers;

(b) if so, what is the total amount utilized out of this amount, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, under the Revised Estimates for 1998-99 the allocation under this Scheme has been fixed at Rs. 20 crores.

(b) Out of Rs. 20 crores, an amount of Rs. 5.90 crores has been utilized.

(c) Does not arise.

Residential Schools for SC/ST Girl Students

2116. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 250/- crores was provided in the budget estimates of her Ministry for the year 1997-98 for establishment of residential schools for the girl students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and a similar amount of Rs. 250/- crores has been provided in the budget estimates of the current financial year 1998-99 for same purpose;

(b) if so, what action has been taken to utilize this amount and what results have been achieved in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Budget Estimates for 1998-99 in respect of the Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme under which establishment of residential schools for girl students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, including minorities, has been revised from Rs. 250 crore to Rs. 20 crores in Revised Estimates 1998-99.

(b) and (c) The scheme is under process for obtaining final approval of Government for its various elements and for deciding on the Ministry/Department which should take up its implementation.

Misuse of Central Assistance by NGOs

2117. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether works of NGOs, which are receiving grants, are supervised and monitored;

(b) if so, how could 40 NGOs obtain grants, as reported in the Asian Age, dated 7th February, 1999; and

(c) the measures taken to check rampant misuse of Central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The performance of NGOs getting financial assistance from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of implementing specific schemes/programmes is monitored through periodic reports and returns prescribed for the purpose, and also Inspection reports obtained from the State Governments/UTs. Instances have, however, come to notice where certain NGOs have indulged in misutilisation of funds released by the Ministry or have sent fake recommendatory letter from the State Government. In such cases, after due verification, further release of grant is stopped and the State Governments are asked to take appropriate action against the NGO, including recovery of the grants given and seizure of assets created out of these grants. In cases where there is reason to believe that the reports submitted by the officials of State Government/UT are false, the concerned State Government/U.T. Administration is advised to initiate appropriate proceedings against the erring officials.

Rehabilitation of Mentally Impaired Persons

2118. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after the enactment of the Disability Act, 1996 (Act 1 of 1996), no schemes have been evolved, nor any steps taken for providing rehabilitation of the mentally impaired persons;

(b) if not, the details of the steps taken and schemes evolved for rehabilitation of such persons;

(c) the estimated number of such mentally impaired people in the country;

(d) whether any efforts are made to find ways to rehabilitate them in consultation with psychiatrics and other specialists; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No Sir.

for Minorities submits its recommendations to the Central and State Governments in pursuance of Section 9(1) (c) of the Act. These recommendations are placed in each House of Parliament by the Central Government and before State Legislatures by the concerned State Governments alongwith a Memorandum of action taken on the recommendations and the reasons for non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

(d) The National Commission for Minorities have made a number of recommendations in their Annual Reports for the years 1993-94 to 1997-98. These are under examination.